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## 2013 Humanitarian Aid Operational Strategy of the Czech Republic



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**HUMANITARIAN AID**

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*The purpose of the Operational Strategy is to provide an overview of the basic aims of Czech humanitarian aid in 2013 on the background of global humanitarian needs and international commitments.*

### **1. Basic humanitarian principles, definitions and forms**

Providing of humanitarian aid financed from the Czech Government Budget is based on the **Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid**, which entered into force on July 1, 2010.<sup>1</sup> According to this law, the humanitarian aid (HA) is defined as a set of activities financed from the national budget in order to prevent loss of life and injury, to alleviate suffering and to restore basic living conditions of people after an emergency, as well as to mitigate long-lasting consequences of emergencies and to prevent their occurrence and negative consequences.

The provision of humanitarian aid is governed by fundamental international humanitarian principles of **humanity** (the main goal is saving lives), **impartiality** (HA is provided strictly on the basis of needs), **neutrality** (the humanitarian actors do not favour any part of a given conflict) and **independence** (the aid is provided regardless of political, economic, military or other aims of the donor and/or beneficiary). The Czech Republic endorsed these principles in 2006, having joined the **Good Humanitarian Donorship** (GHD) platform.<sup>2</sup>

The Czech Republic appreciates and supports the principal role played by the **United Nations** and its **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Issues** (UNOCHA) in coordination of humanitarian action (incl. cluster approach); as well as the important contribution of the UN agencies in implementing international humanitarian aid and assessing global humanitarian needs.

The Czech Republic respects and supports the work of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, as well as the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, including **its National Societies**, in particular in distributing aid in unstable regions, in enforcing international humanitarian law (IHL) and contributing to disaster prevention and preparedness.

As EU member, the Czech Republic takes part in the implementation of the Action Plan to the **European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid** and supports the global humanitarian activities of the **European Union**, in particular the advocacy for good donorship and IHL as well as the efforts towards qualified needs assessments and timely as well as adequate response, including its coordination.

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<sup>1</sup> 151/2010 Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and Amending Related Laws

<sup>2</sup> PRINCIPLES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF HUMANITARIAN DONORSHIP, endorsed in Stockholm, 17 June 2003, by 16 donor countries and the EC. Several other donors, incl. the Czech Republic (2006), have joined since then (41 in January 2013); the EU joined collectively in 2007 through the endorsement of the EU Consensus on humanitarian aid. The Czech Republic together with Denmark hold co-chairmanship in GHD Initiative from July 2012 until July 2013.

As it follows from the above presented definition of humanitarian aid, the humanitarian assistance comprises both **emergency aid** (in the first days and weeks after an ad hoc catastrophe), **early recovery** of basic living conditions (in a horizon of months after a catastrophe) as well as a **long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction** in up to two years, where needed. Further important parts of the humanitarian assistance are **disaster preparedness** and disaster risk reduction as well as assistance in protracted (complex) humanitarian crises, incl. the focus on synergies between the humanitarian and development activities (**Linking Relief, Recovery and Development, LRRD**).

The Czech Republic, similar to other donors, uses following main forms of aid provision:

- 1) **Financial** (contributions to international organizations, grants for Czech humanitarian NGOs, financial transfers to foreign non-governmental and other institutions) – suitable in all types and phases of humanitarian emergencies;
- 2) **In-kind** (in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior – Directorate General of the Fire Rescue Service, DG FRS) – mainly in the first phase of ad hoc emergencies;
- 3) **Expert** assistance (in cooperation with Ministry of the Interior – DG FRS) – mainly in the first phase of ad hoc emergencies (rescue and medical staff etc.), or in DRR framework.

## **2. Global humanitarian needs and appeals**

### **United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process 2013 (CAP)**

Humanitarian aid shall be provided on the basis of needs. The UNOCHA **Consolidated Appeals Process** (CAP) represents a primary tool for identifying global humanitarian needs.

The 2013 CAP has summed up humanitarian needs of **51 mio people in 16 countries** (12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, further Afghanistan, Palestine, the Philippines/Mindanao and Yemen) with funding requirements amounting to **USD 8.5 billion**. Compared to 2012, the Horn of Africa region, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti are not covered by CAP 2013. The most expensive operations are **Somalia (1.3 billion USD), South Sudan (1.1 bil.), and Sudan (983 mio)**. Most people will be reached by humanitarian operations in **Afghanistan and Yemen** (more than 8 million people each). The humanitarian needs in **DRC, Mali and Yemen** are increasing, in **Palestine and Zimbabwe** decreasing.

Separately from CAP, the **Humanitarian Plan for Syria and Regional emergency plan for Syria** were launched by UNOCHA for the first six months of the year. The former shall cover the humanitarian needs of up to 4 million people inside of Syria (520 mio USD), the later shall reach up to 1.1 million refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries. Further, UNRWA requires 91 mio USD in order to assist the Palestinian refugees affected by the crisis in Syria.

## **ICRC Global Appeal 2013**

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** also issued its 2013 humanitarian appeal (**Emergency Appeal – CHF 988.7 mio**). The appeal sums up the funding requirements of operations addressing namely the situation of IDPs and refugees in countries affected by conflicts.

The geographical shares are similar to previous years: 43% of the budgets are required for Africa (+2% compared to 2012 appeal), 23% for the Middle East countries (+3%), around 20% are earmarked for Asia and the Pacific. Among the most expensive humanitarian operations are **Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, DRC, South Sudan and Sudan**. The ICRC activities in Pakistan remain suspended after the kidnapping and killing of one ICRC volunteer last year. Protection will take 19.7% of the ICRC budget, non-food aid 57%, prevention and preparedness 15%.

## **ECHO Humanitarian Aid Operational Priorities for 2013**

**Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)** is a leading humanitarian donor as well as a powerful advocate for good humanitarian donorship. In its implementing decision on the financing of humanitarian aid operational priorities for 2013, the European Commission makes proposals for the disbursement of the basic humanitarian budget amounting to **EUR 856 million**.

Around 52% of the budgets will be earmarked for countries in **sub-Saharan Africa**, in particular **Horn of Africa, Central Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Sahel**; 19% shall be spent in **Asia** and 16% in the **Middle East** region. 15% of the humanitarian budget are planned for "**forgotten crises**" (an increase by 5% compared to 2012), almost one third (**31.7%**) will be spent on food assistance, 5.4% on disaster preparedness.

The establishment of **EU Aid Volunteers**, as well as the evaluation of the **European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid** (with a public consultation as the first step), is among further humanitarian priorities of DG ECHO in 2013.

### **3. Humanitarian aid provided by the Czech Republic**

#### **Summary of the humanitarian aid provided by the Czech Republic abroad in 2012**

The conflict in **Syria** and its negative impacts on the whole region (in particular in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) dominated not only the humanitarian area in 2012. The Czech Republic supported both IDPs inside of Syria and Syrian and Palestinian refugees in the neighbouring countries with a total contribution amounting 20.5 mio CzK.

There were several other countries or regions affected by humanitarian consequences of conflicts in 2012: **Sahel** (in particular inside of Mali, with refugee flows to Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger); **South Sudan and Sudan; DRC**. Despite some stabilisation of the

political situation, serious humanitarian problems prevailed in **Somalia or Yemen**. The Czech Republic contributed 25 mio CzK in humanitarian aid for these countries.

The instability combined with disasters complicated the humanitarian situation in **Afghanistan, Pakistan** or in the eastern parts of **Burma/Myanmar**. The Czech Republic responded to their humanitarian needs with 11.5 mio CzK.

Compared to conflicts, the natural disasters did not have so serious humanitarian impacts in 2012. Parts of the sub-Saharan Africa faced again drought in the first half of the year. **Hurricane Sandy** affected **Caribic** and the densely populated eastern cost of the **USA** in the autumn – with the most serious consequences in **Haiti**. Large areas of the Pacific as well as the Central America region faced several cyclones and typhoons, followed by floods and landslides, in particular in **Bangladesh, China and the Philippines**. Even **Nigeria** faced the worst floods in 50 years. The Czech Republic committed in total 10.5 mio CzK to the emergency aid and early recovery.

In 2012, the Czech Republic made further contributions to **CERF** (2.5 mio CzK from the humanitarian aid budget) and **UNOCHA** (2.5 mio CzK from a budget line for voluntary contributions). The Camp New Iraq Appeal was supported with 3 mio CzK via UNHCR.

The 2012 humanitarian aid budget was fully disbursed and spent on various kinds and phases of humanitarian emergencies. Czech and international NGOs (52.5%), international organizations, in particular UN agencies and programmes (43.5%), and Czech Embassies in Kabul and Kuala Lumpur took part in the implementation of the assistance financed by the Czech Republic in 2012.

### **The humanitarian aid of the Czech Republic in 2013 – a preliminary outlook**

In 2013, **CZK 73 million** will be available for humanitarian assistance in the basic budget<sup>3</sup>. The Czech Republic will attempt to support both countries with protracted (complex) crises and countries affected by ad hoc emergencies. Follow-up aid will be offered to countries affected by disasters in 2012, where needed. If the budget allows it, the Czech Republic will contribute to the DRR activities. The food assistance needs will be met from the humanitarian budget as well.

The Czech Republic will again support humanitarian projects of Czech and foreign NGOs, where appropriate. An adequate share of the humanitarian budget will be disbursed through the UN humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes as well as through ICRC/IFRC and national RC societies, according to the comparative advantages of the particular implementing partners with a view to a maximal impact for the affected populations.

The Czech registered NGOs are again invited to apply for grants for their humanitarian aid projects either in countries affected by **protracted emergencies (Afghanistan,**

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<sup>3</sup> According to the Government decision No. 413 from June 13, 2012 (2013 Development Cooperation Plan and Preliminary Financial Outlook until 2015)

**Burma/Myanmar, DR Congo, Ethiopia and South Sudan)**<sup>4</sup> or in **conflict-affected Syria + adjacent region** (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey). The respective calls for proposals were announced on 14 December 2012; the grants are expected to be disbursed in March 2013.

During the Quarter II of the year, the continuous humanitarian needs in countries affected by emergencies in 2012 will be the top priority (like **Sahel or Yemen**). This assistance will be implemented either via CAP or in cooperation with relevant INGOs. The humanitarian needs in Syria and its neighbouring countries will be continuously monitored, with a view to a contribution to the respective UN programmes. The reconstruction needs in **Haiti and Pakistan** will be considered, incl. the disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures. Particular projects in favour of **Burmese refugees in Malaysia (Rohingyas)** and/or **the Afghan refugees in Iran** (if successfully identified) will be supported as well.

In July, a **mid-term review** will update the operational strategy in relation to the global humanitarian needs and still available resources. If the situation makes it possible, the Czech Republic will support relevant humanitarian projects implemented by **UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA and WFP**; a voluntary contribution to **CERF and UNOCHA** will also be considered. The remaining means will be spent on disaster preparedness and resilience building.

In 2013, a first **evaluation of bilateral humanitarian projects** will take place in Burma/Myanmar. In the framework of a comprehensive **review of the Czech PRT Logar**, the humanitarian activities and their possible follow-up will also be evaluated. During the continuing co-chairmanship in the GHD initiative, the Czech Republic will focus on the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the LRRD concept, in particular on the background of the resilience building in vulnerable countries and regions.

#### **Preliminary distribution of the Czech humanitarian budget 2013 – a summary:**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Amount (CZK)</b>	<b>Countries/Activities</b>	<b>Implementing Partners</b>
Q1 – Q4	12 000 000	According to ad hoc needs	UN, ICRC/IFRC, IOM, NGOs
Q1	16 000 000	Call for Proposals: - protracted crises (Afghanistan, Myanmar; Ethiopia, DRC, South Sudan); - emergencies (Syria + region)	Czech registered NGOs
Q2	15 000 000	Follow-up on 2012 emergencies (Haiti, B/M Malaysia, Pakistan, Sahel, Syria)	UN, ICRC, NGOs
Q3*	5 000 000	Food assistance (Mali, Tajikistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe)	WFP/UNICEF/NGOs
Q3 – Q4*	12 000 000	CAP + voluntary contributions	CERF, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP
Q4*	3 000 000	DRR and LRRD activities	IFRC/NGOs
Total	73 000 000		

\* - Based on the mid-term review of the humanitarian situation and available means.

<sup>4</sup> Afghanistan and Ethiopia are included in accordance with the bilateral development cooperation programmes, taking into account the LRRD needs.